

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, and 11 are pending and under consideration in this application, claims 5 and 9 having been withdrawn as allegedly being drawn to separate inventions. Claims 1-4, 8, 10, and 11 stand rejected. Claims 6 and 7 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since claim 8 is dependent on claim 7, Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to include it in the claims that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 6 is amended to be in independent form incorporating all the limitations of claim 1. In light of this amendment, Applicants understand that it and dependent claims 7 and 8 are allowable. Claims 1-5 and 9-11 are cancelled without prejudice to their being pursued in a separate application.

No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein.

After entry of the amendments made herein, claims 6-8 will be pending and under consideration in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections

(a) Claims 1-4, 8, and 11 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,591,444 (the '444 patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,949,073 (the '073 patent).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of the above amendment to the claims.

(b) Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,633,001 (the '001 patent) or U.S. Patent No. 5,922,025 (the '025 patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,041,138 (the '138 patent).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of the above amendment to the claims.

(c) Claim 10 stands rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over the '444 patent in view of the '073 patent and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0156833 (the '833 application).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of the above amendment to the claims.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that all grounds for rejection and objection have been overcome and that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

In the event that a telephone conversation could expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Applicants enclose herewith a request for an automatic extension of time. Please apply the fee for the extension of time and any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 10592-022002.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 17, 2007

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